

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 SNM-02 OMB-01 HEW-08 SS-15 AID-20

DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-10

TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 AGR-20 /144 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/RA:TGGRANT:PD

8/1/73 EXT:20267

APPROVED BY NEA/RA:SDSCHIFF

NEA/TUR:RDILLON (DRAFT)

NEA/INS:JHAWES (DRAFT)

S/NM:WJHANDLEY (DRAFT)

OMB/FDM:LHERMAN (SUBS)

----- 115258

R 012207Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151581

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: OPIUM REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL USE

REF: ANKARA 5849 (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT SHARES EMBASSY'S CONCERN THAT TURKEY POPPY BAN OR BELIEF THAT USG IS ENCOURAGING INCREASE IN OPIUM PRODUCTION ELSEWHERE MIGHT BECOME PUBLIC ISSUES IN TURKEY DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGN OR SUBSEQUENTLY.

2. USG IS NOT ENCOURAGING ANY INCREASE IN PRODUCTION AND WE ARE NOT RPT NOT CONVINCED THAT A CURRENT WORLD SHORTAGE EXISTS. THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS THAT ONE MAY DEVELOP IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS IF AND AS MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS INCREASE, BUT WE HAVE REACHED NO OFFICIAL CONCLUSIONS AS TO LIKELIHOOD THIS CONTINGENCY. OUR POSITION REMAINS AS SET
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FORTH PARA 3, STATE 137642.

3. UN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD (INCB) IS CURRENTLY PROJECTING THAT WORLD OPIUM STOCKS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1973, WILL BE 755 TONS. THIS INDICATES THAT THERE WILL BE NO WORLD SHORTAGE OF OPIUM DURING 1973, ALTHOUGH SOME INDIVIDUAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES FORMERLY COUNTING ON TURKISH OPIUM MAY BE IN SHORT SUPPLY. FINAL INCB ESTIMATE IS AWAITING OFFICIAL GOI PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR CURRENT CROP YEAR. WE ANTICIPATE THAT ESTIMATE WILL BE MADE PRIOR TO MEETING OF UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND) IN FEBRUARY-MARCH 1974.

4. INDIAN PRODUCTION DURING CURRENT CROP YEAR (1972-73) WILL APPARENTLY BE LESS THAN DURING LAST CROP YEAR BECAUSE: 1) INDIVIDUAL FARMERS ANTICIPATED SHORTAGE OF WATER DUE TO DROUGHT AND DID NOT UTILIZE ALL LICENSES ISSUED BY GOI, AND 2) MORPHINE CONTENT OF POPPIES THAT WERE PLANTED WAS REDUCED BY DROUGHT CONDITIONS. GOI DECISION ON AREA TO BE LICENSED FOR NEXT CROP YEAR WILL BE MADE IN NEAR FUTURE, BUT ANTICIPATED WEATHER CONDITIONS MAY BE MORE IMPORTANT FACTOR THAN MARKET PRICE IN INDIVIDUAL FARMERS DECISION TO UTILIZE LICENSE.

5. CND IS APPROPRIATE MULTILATERAL FORUM FOR DETERMINATION ON WHETHER WORLD PRODUCTION NEED BE EXPANDED TO MEET WORLD REQUIREMENTS. GOI HAS REQUESTED THAT SUBJECT BE INCLUDED ON CND AGENDA. IF ANY PRODUCTION EXPANSION WERE DECIDED ON IN CND FORUM, USG WOULD WISH ASSURE ADEQUATE CONTROLS TO PREVENT LEAKAGE TO ILLICIT MARKET. WE DO NOT INTEND TO TAKE LEAD IN ENCOURAGING INCREASE IN PRODUCTION AND OUR PRIMARY CONCERN IS STILL (AS IT WAS IN ENCOURAGING GOT BAN ON PRODUCTION) TO PREVENT DIVERSIONS FROM LICIT PRODUCTION TO ILLICIT MARKET.

6. IN MEANTIME WE ARE SEEKING ARRANGEMENT TO MAKE UP ANY SHORTFALLS IN OPIUM SUPPLY TO U.S. PHARMACEUTICAL HOUSES FROM STRATEGIC STOCKPILE. WHATEVER DECISION MADE AT CND MEETING, THIS SHOULD ENABLE BOTH USG AND U.S. PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS TO AVOID ACTIONS IN NEXT FEW YEARS THAT WOULD GIVE GOT LEGITIMATE GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT.

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7. EMBASSY WILL BE KEPT INFORMED AS SUPPLY AND DEMAND ISSUE EVOLVES OVER NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS AND AFFORDED OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE INPUTS ON USG TACTICS. SHOULD PUBLIC ISSUES ARISE IN TURKEY WHICH EMBASSY BELIEVES REQUIRES USG RESPONSE, ADVISE DEPARTMENT AND WE WILL PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON BASIS OF SITUATION AT THAT TIME.

8. PARA 2 REFTTEL WILL BE ADDRESSED IN SEPTTEL. ROGERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, OPIUM, DRUGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE151581
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TGGRANT:PD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SCHIFF
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730864/aaaabuur.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 ANKARA 5849
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPIUM REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL USE
TAGS: SNAR, TU
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005